

**Town of Royalston  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Tuesday, September 5, 2006  
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Andrew West, Chairman; Thomas Keller, Clerk; and Linda Alger, Member.

1. Chairman West called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 8/22/06 meeting were read. Two corrections were made and noted. Ms. Alger made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
  - a) The Board has received correspondence from Kimball-Cooke regarding additional insurance coverage now available to the Police Department. Mr. Kellner made a motion to add this coverage, with Ms. Alger seconding the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
  - b) The Royalston Fire & EMS Association has requested use of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Town Hall on 9/23/06 at 3:00 p.m. for a chicken barbecue. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the request and to waive the fee. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - c) Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve a request from Gary Winitzer for use of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Town Hall on 9/13, 9/17 and 9/20 for CPR Professional Rescuer Classes and to waive the fee. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - d) Mr. Kellner made a motion to pay the bill from Kopelman & Paige in the amount of \$179.11. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
  - e) Mr. Kellner moved to pay the bill for bonding of the Tax Collector in the amount of \$246.00. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - f) Mr. Kellner reported on a meeting of the Veteran's District he attended recently. A copy of the Administrative Budget for FY 2006 is attached. Toni Philips has stated that she will retire next year. Bill Meehan, Chairman of the District Committee has requested a copy of Mrs. Phillips' letter of appointment from the Town. Since Royalston is required to provide space in town for meetings with veterans, the Town Hall kitchen will be utilized if necessary.
  - g) Mr. West stated that MEMA has sent a fax requesting that they be notified about the name of the Emergency Management Coordinator and also asking the Town to join the North Worcester Regional Planning Committee. Mr. West will follow up to get more information on what this committee is all about.
4. 7:30 p.m. – Pole Hearing: The Board has received a petition from Verizon and Mass. Electric to put three new poles on Toney Road to service a new customer. Scott Burns was present to represent Verizon. Keith Newton stated that he has viewed the area and foresees no problems. This road is in the category of a discontinued road, and the new owner has agreed to maintain it. Larry Siegel, Tree Warden, stated that he has not received notification regarding this hearing and whether the pole placement requires any removal of trees. Mr. Burns stated that he thought there was one large tree to be removed and some saplings. Mr. Siegel said that the trees should be marked, so he can make a determination. Discussion was held regarding the town's requirement that the Planning Board hold a tree hearing, due to the Scenic Roads Act. The procedure to be followed was also discussed. Mr. Siegel agreed to meet with Mr. Burns to view the area. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the location of the poles subject to the proper approval for cutting trees or approval of the Tree Warden that no trees need to be cut. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. West advised Mr. Burns about on-going significant phone outages in South Royalston. Mr. Burns will speak with an engineer and get back to Mr. Kellner.

5. Department Head Reports:

- a) Fire Department: Chief Wayne Newton presented his report (copy attached).
- b) Police Department:
  - 1) Chief Deveneau reported that there were four arrests made in connection with break-ins at the Country Store. Also, a No Trespass notice was served to Mr. Hill, a resident of Butterworth Road.
  - 2) Pagers were given to the Animal Control Officer and the Tree Warden.
  - 3) Chief Deveneau requested permission for use of the Town Hall on 10/28/06 for the Children's Halloween Party. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the request, with Ms. Alger seconding the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - 4) The base radio is still not in operation. He is waiting for the FCC to ok use of the frequencies.
  - 5) The sergeants are currently doing background checks and interviews for the department's vacancies.
  - 6) Chief Deveneau continues to look into ID's for town employees. He will look at information in a catalog presented to him by Ms. Alger.
- c) Tree Warden: Larry Siegel stated that he received a copy of an e-mail from Mr. Bundschuh regarding the condition of some trees on the common. He will take an inventory and get a scope of work. He will also check out the trees in the park in South Royalston.
- d) DPW –
  - 1) Keith Newton reported that the contractor who was awarded the bid for the Fire Station #2 roof has asked if we could waive the 100% bond requirement and post cash instead. Mr. Kellner made a motion to allow the waiving of the bond requirement. He then withdrew this motion. Vyto Andreliunas stated that in the past a passbook account was used as escrow as an alternative to a bond. After some discussion, the Board agreed to allow the bond requirement to be waived. Mr. Newton will oversee the passbook account.
  - 2) Mr. Newton presented copies of the evaluations of three DPW employees for their review. These evaluations are required in order for merit increases to be given. Ms. Alger made a motion to approve the merit increases effective 9/5/06. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - 3) Mr. Newton spoke with Robert Jennings, structural engineer, regarding cross bracing of the Town Hall fire escape. He will check the maintenance account for funding.
  - 4) The water purification system at the Village School has been completed.
  - 5) The Board approved Mr. Newton's changes to the driveway permit process.
  - 6) A discussion was held regarding services of Guertin Associates relating to the Route 32 project. Mr. Newton has had several calls from Mr. Guertin about why the process is being delayed. Mr. Newton stated that he has chosen to do in-house data collection and noted that there is no contract in place with Guertin. The Board will send a letter to Guertin explaining that the scope of work has changed since the project was first advertised.
- e) Zoning Task Force – Vyto Andreliunas requested that the Board contact town counsel for an opinion on who owns the right of way when the town discontinues a road. Mr. Kellner said that we had received some information when Toney Road was being discussed. He will check with the Attorney General's office regarding this issue.

6. Old Business:

- a) Mr. Andreliunas requested that the Board find someone else to be the town's representative on the Montachusett Joint Transportation Commission (MJTC). Also, the annual meeting of MRPC will be held on 9/28/06 at the Athol Town Hall at a cost of \$20/person.
- b) The Board has received a letter from Mark Deegan regarding notice he received about the most recent incident with his dog and the Poor's dog. He has stated that his dogs were not in town and that the offending dog must have been one belonging to his daughter. Ms. Alger made a motion to reconvene the dog hearing and to invite Robin Mowrey, Mr. & Mrs. Poor, the Deegans and Mary Coflesky. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The hearing will be set up for 9/19/06.
- c) Mr. Kellner made a motion to sign the contract with Monadnock Disposal. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

7. The Treasury warrant was signed.

8. At 9:56 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.